

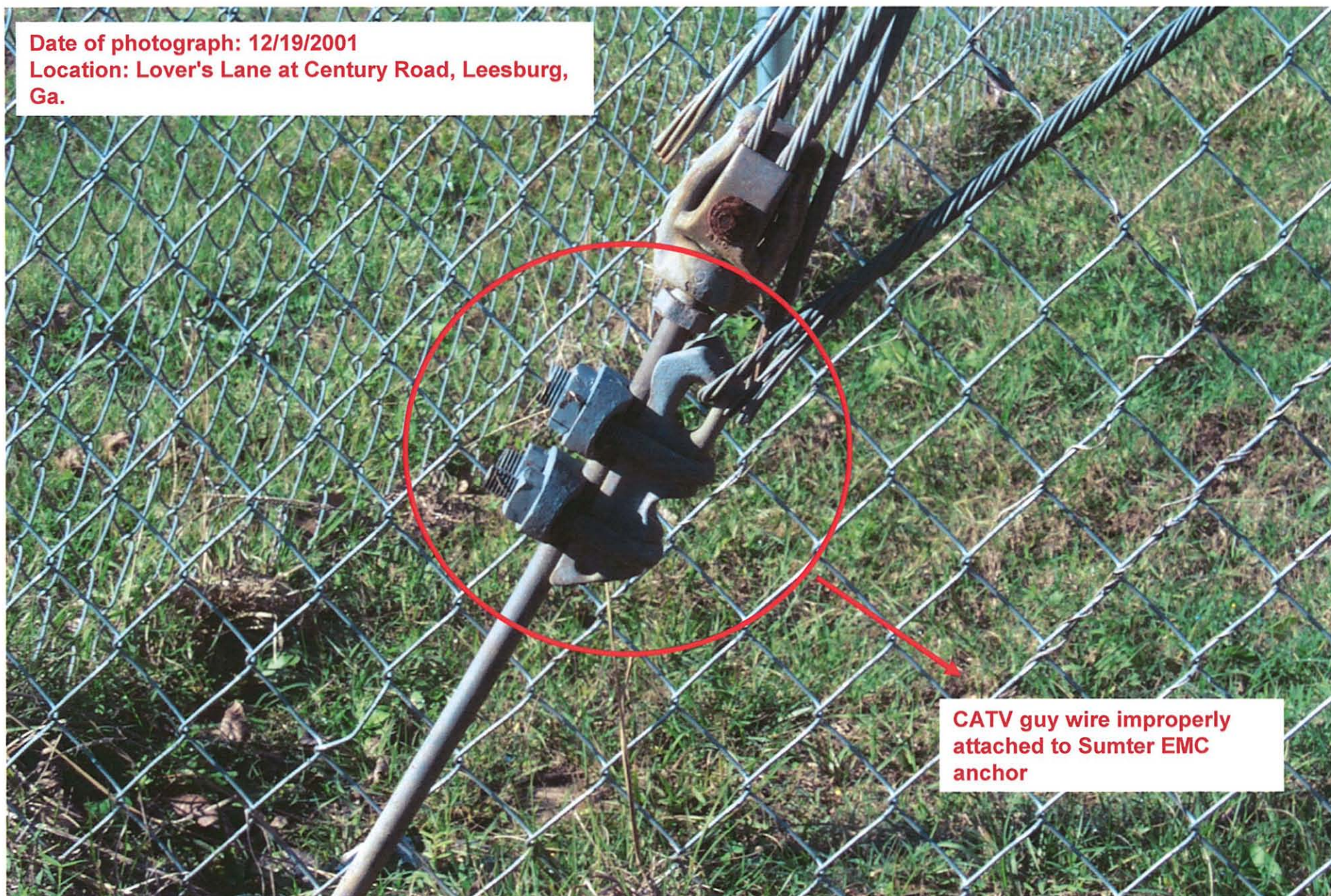


ILEC anchor 4'2" out of ground
due to improper installation

Date of photograph: 12/20/2002
Location: US27 at Marlette Drive, Cusseta, Ga.

Date of photograph: 12/19/2001

Location: Lover's Lane at Century Road, Leesburg, Ga.



**CATV guy wire improperly
attached to Sumter EMC
anchor**



ILEC pole with only
ILEC guy and anchors

Date of photograph: 4-10-2008
Location: US27, South of Cusseta, Ga.

**ILEC pole with ILEC guy and anchors
improperly installed in loose, sandy soil**



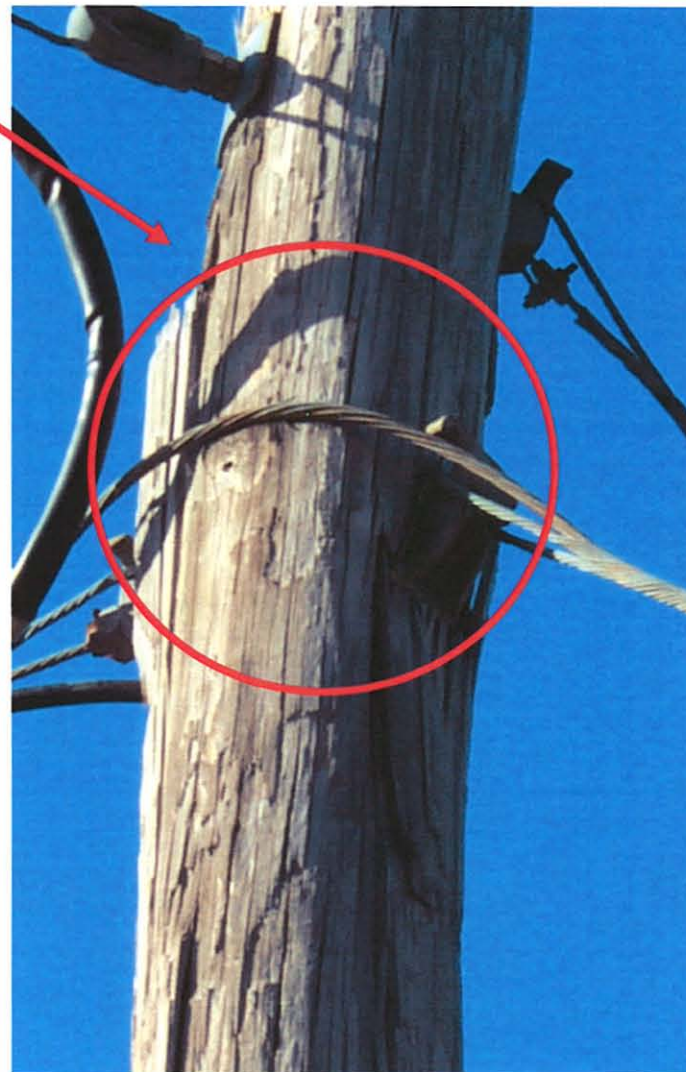
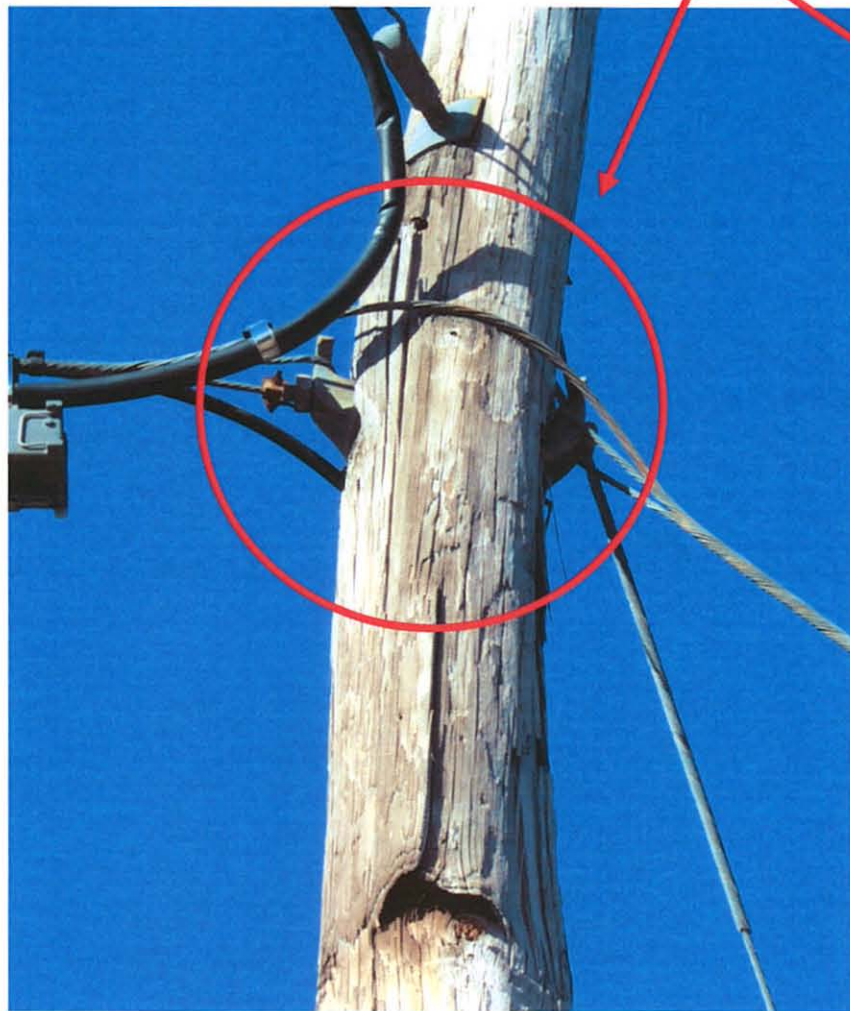
**Date of photographs: 4-10-2008
Location: US27, North of Lumpkin, Ga.**



Communication
anchors placed too
close to pole - will
have little to no
holding power

Date of photograph: 4-10-2008
Location: Riverbend Road, Cusseta, Ga.

Excessive ILEC guy wire tension crushing pole



Date of photographs: 2003
Location: Ga Hwy 26, East of Cusseta, Ga.

TAB 2



Insufficient ILEC guying caused ILEC cable to sag over highway and tractor trailer truck to strike the cable and break the pole

**Date of photograph: 12/20/2002
Location: US27 at Marlette Drive, Cusseta, Ga.**



**Broken pole on opposite side of road from
previous photo (aftermath of failed anchor
on pole in previous photo)**

**Date of photograph: 12/20/2002
Location: US27 at Marlette Drive, Cusseta, Ga.**

EXHIBIT C

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C., 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementation of Section 224 of the Act;)	WC Docket No. 07-245
Amendment of the Commission's Rules and)	
Policies Governing Pole Attachments)	RM-11293
)	RM-11303
)	

DECLARATION OF JEFF BRITNELL

1. My name is Jeff Britnell. I am currently employed by Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corporation ("Joe Wheeler") as Manager of Engineering.
2. This declaration is based on my personal and professional knowledge, as well as knowledge available to me in my capacity as Manager of Engineering for Joe Wheeler.
3. I have been in my current position since 2001, and have been with the company for a total of 9 years. My job responsibilities include management of the distribution line construction, substation, mapping (GIS), SCADA, and IT related areas for Joe Wheeler. I also perform system load studies, system coordination studies and engineering design.
4. Joe Wheeler provides electricity to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural members in parts of Lawrence and Morgan counties in northern Alabama. Joe Wheeler has over 100 employees and serves over 31,000 Alabamians through more than 42,235 meters. Joe Wheeler's distribution network covers 4,170 miles and has 75,149 distribution poles, of which 40,781 have at least one third party attacher ("Joint Use Poles"). Cable companies have 28,594 attachments on Joe Wheeler poles, telecommunications companies have 28,318.

5. Joe Wheeler is a member of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (“NRECA”). I offer this declaration in support of the comments filed by NRECA in response to the FCC’s Pole Attachment Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket 07-245.

6. My declaration addresses specific issues impacting the safety and reliability of Joe Wheeler’s electric distribution system, as well as Joe Wheeler’s experiences and data related to third party attachments.

7. Joe Wheeler has implemented processes to monitor the safety and reliability of its poles and all attachments thereto. The procedures are particularly necessary given the construction practices of third party attachers. In my experience, these attaching entities frequently create situations that do not comply with NESC standards, RUS specifications or Joe Wheeler construction standards. Joe Wheeler just completed our most recent pole count this last fall (“Pole Count”). During the Pole Count, obvious safety violations are also noted.

8. The Pole Count confirmed that attachers are putting their facilities on Joe Wheeler poles without following the permit application process and the requirements of our CATV License Agreement. Our Agreement requires that the attacher must “request permission in writing” before making any attachments to Joe Wheeler poles, including overlashing (as explained more fully below, overlashing is becoming an ever increasing problem creating unsafe conditions on Joe Wheeler’s pole network that may also jeopardize system reliability). The Pole Count revealed over 10,197 unauthorized attachments (8,633 by cable companies and 1,564 by telecommunications companies). We even discovered that a new entity had attached to Joe Wheeler’s poles without a license agreement. In the time period during which these attachments were made, Joe Wheeler received only approximately 200 permit requests for new attachments.

9. The Pole Count revealed an unacceptable number of code and specification violations by third-party attachers. In total, 9,327 violations were recorded (5,499 attributable to cable companies and 3,828 to telecommunications companies). The failure of the attaching entities to comply with the permit process is a substantial contributing factor to the high incidents of poor construction procedures and safety violations.

10. Attached as Tab 1 to this declaration is a power point presentation that includes photographs of common violations and unsafe conditions created by attachers. Common violations and unsafe conditions created by attachers include, but are not limited to, the following: lack of the requisite separation between power facilities and communications facilities (*see* Photographs 15-16 attached hereto as Tab 1); improper and failed overlashing (*see* Tab 1, Photos 6-14); and improper guying and anchoring (and/or failure to do so altogether) (*see* Tab 1, Photos 1-5).

11. I understand that several attaching entities have suggested that they should be allowed to overlash on utility poles without notice to the pole-owner and without any determination being made concerning the safety and pole capacity to do so. In my experience, this is not advisable. Our contract specifically requires advance notice of overlashing. Overlashing places additional strain on a pole, just like any new messenger. Moreover, the overlashed cables are getting bigger and bigger, and the size of the typical overlashed bundles is increasing. This creates not only additional weight on the pole, but also greater wind and ice loading issues. The unsafe conditions created by failure to pre-engineer overlashing can be seen in Tab 1, Photographs 6-14.

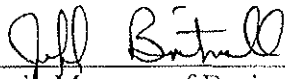
12. Anchors and guys work together and are required to help balance the load on a pole to which wireline attachments have been made. They provide stability, ultimately helping the pole

remain upright and they are critical components of the safety of individual poles and pole lines. When anchors and guys are not properly installed, or not installed at all, the balance and strength of the poles to which they are attached (or not attached) will, of course, be negatively impacted, causing pole deflection (or bending) and pole failure during storms. See Tab 1, Photographs 1-3.

13. The lack of separation between power facilities and communications facilities creates safety concerns regarding pole contractors who perform maintenance and make-ready on Joe Wheeler's poles. Also, failure to abide by ground clearance requirements creates safety concerns for pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the vicinity of Joe Wheeler's poles because of the possibility of contact with the low hanging wires. This, in turn, creates reliability concerns because such contact may shut off power to Joe Wheeler's customers in the vicinity.

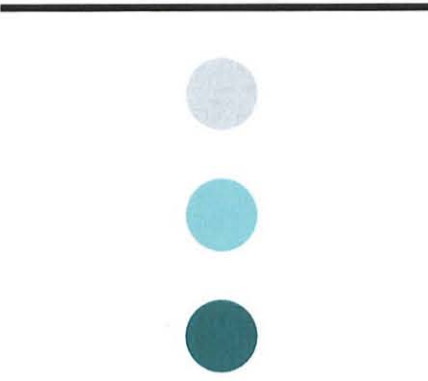
14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth in this declaration are true to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on the 22nd day of April, 2008.



Jeff Britnell, Manager of Engineering
Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corporation

TAB 1



Photos in Support of Jeff Britnell Declaration

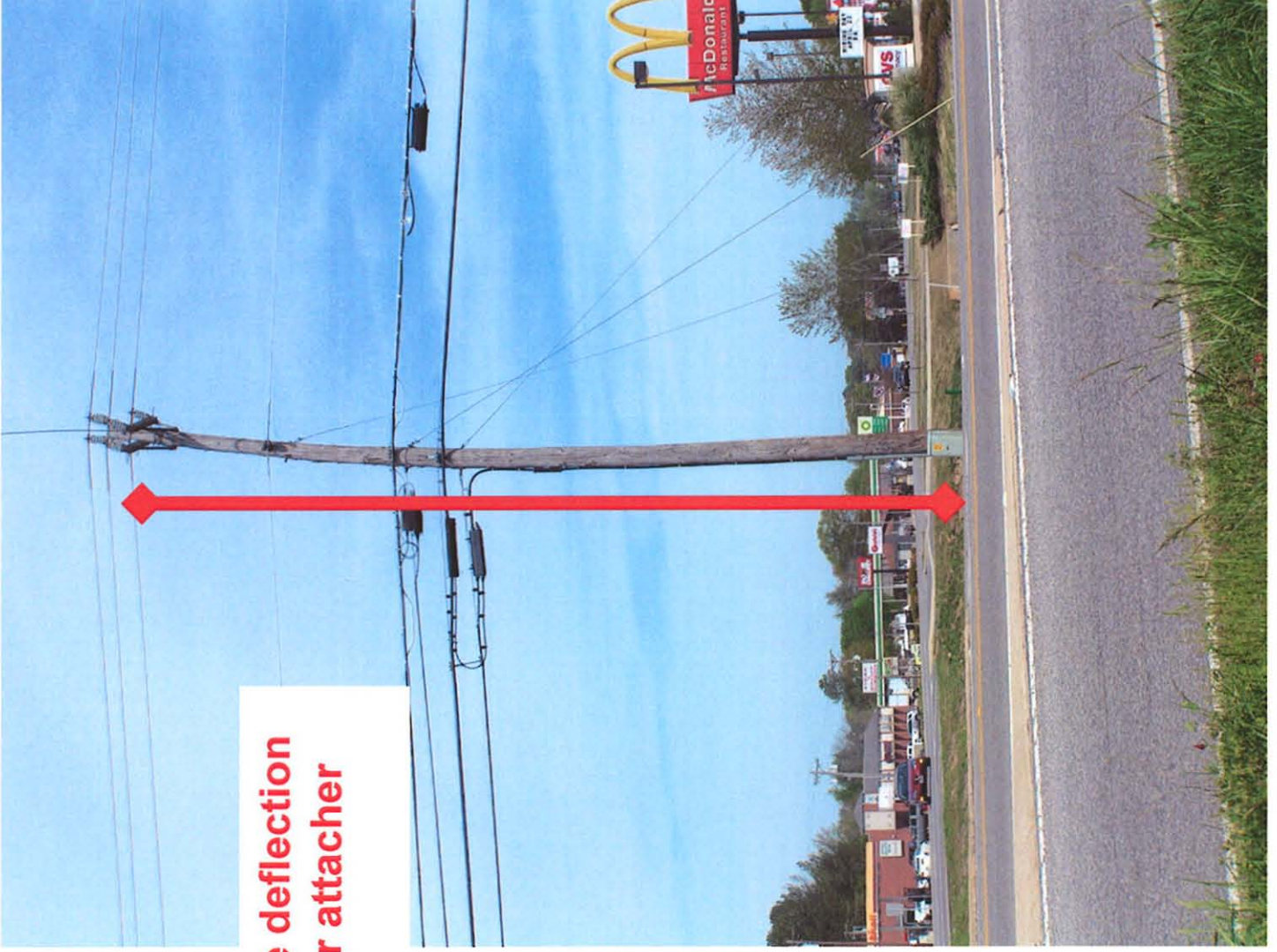
Submitted in Support of Comments
filed by NRECA

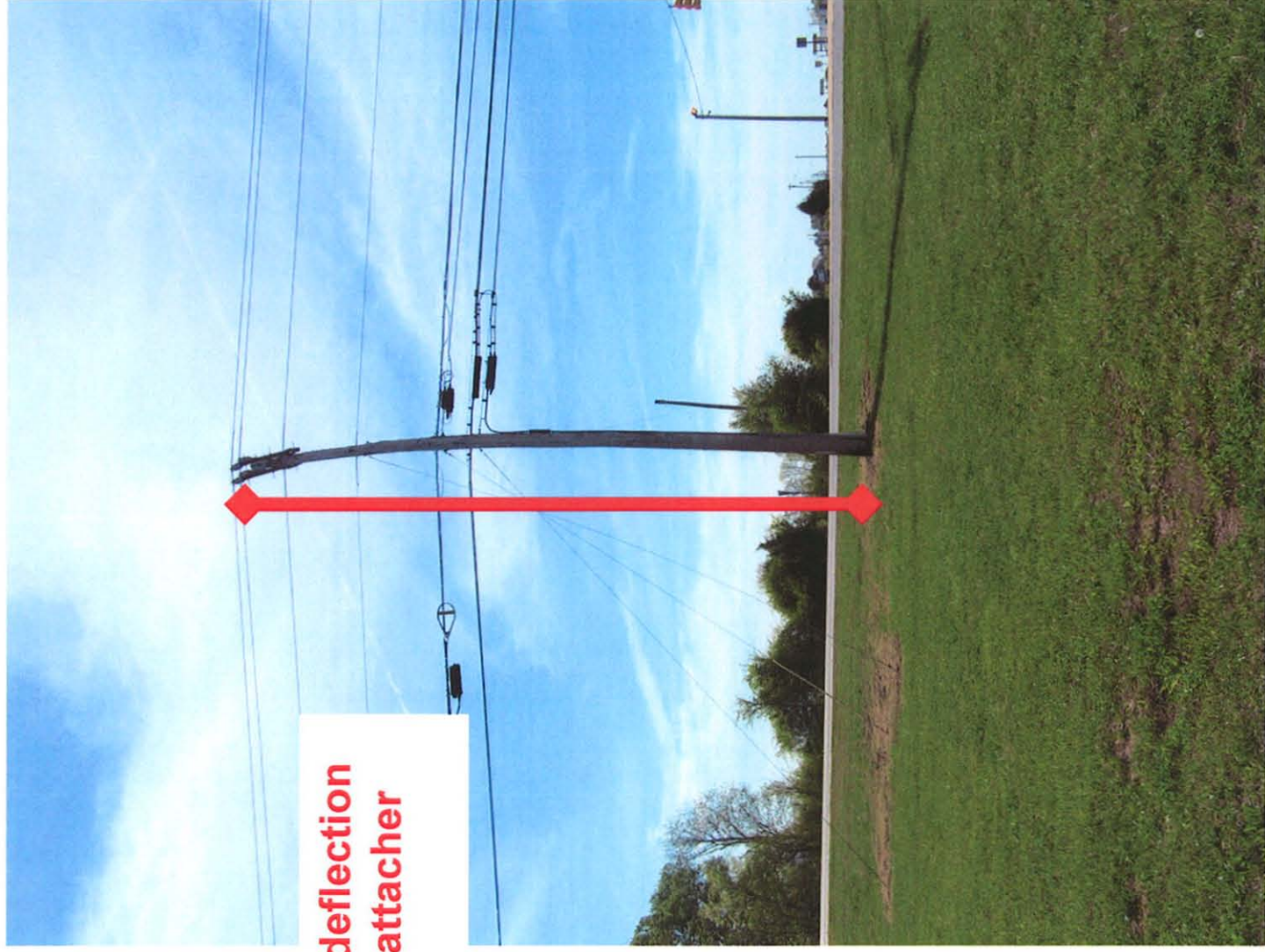
April 22, 2008



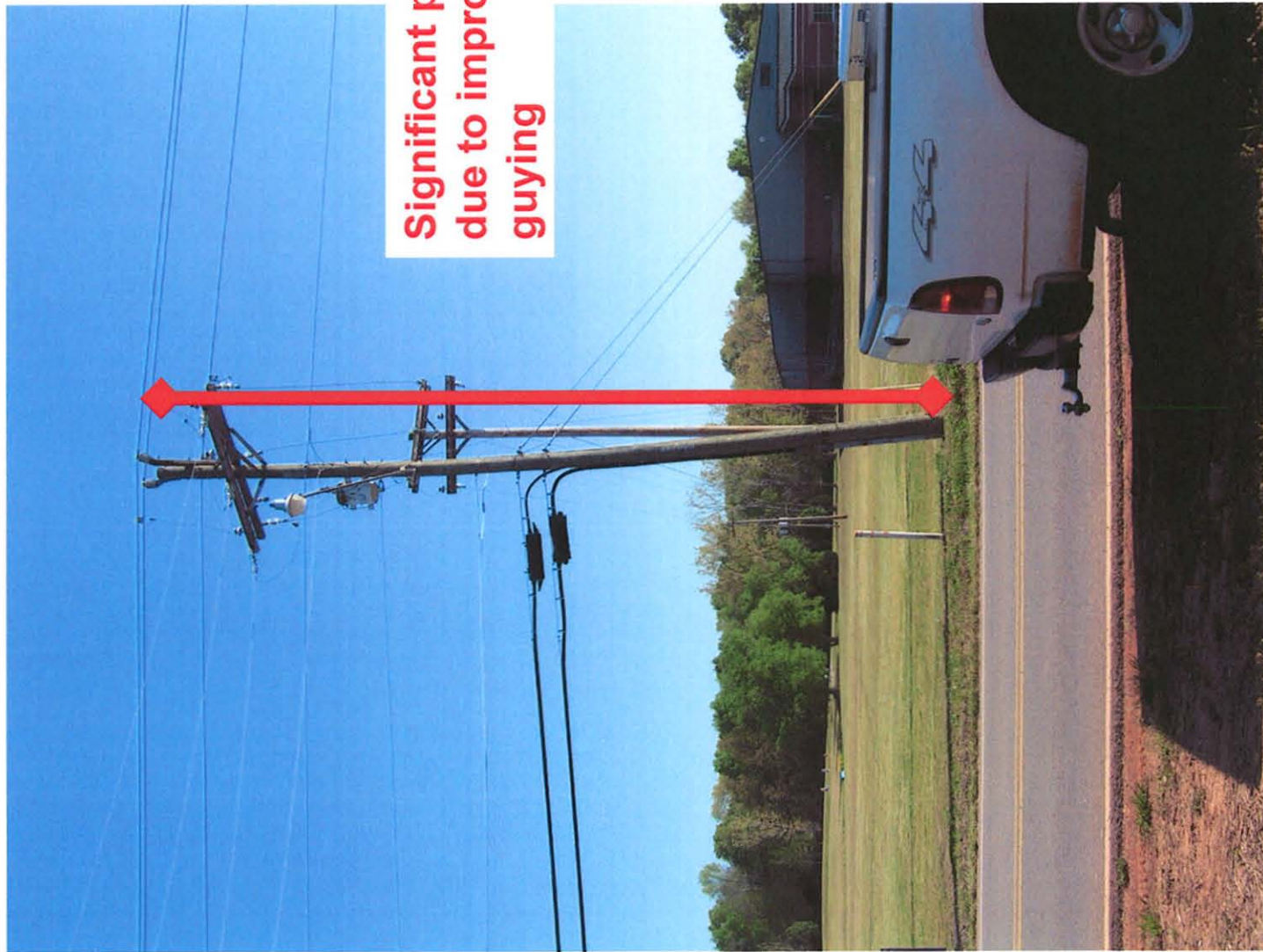
Guying and Anchoring Violations

**Significant pole deflection
due to improper attacher
guying**

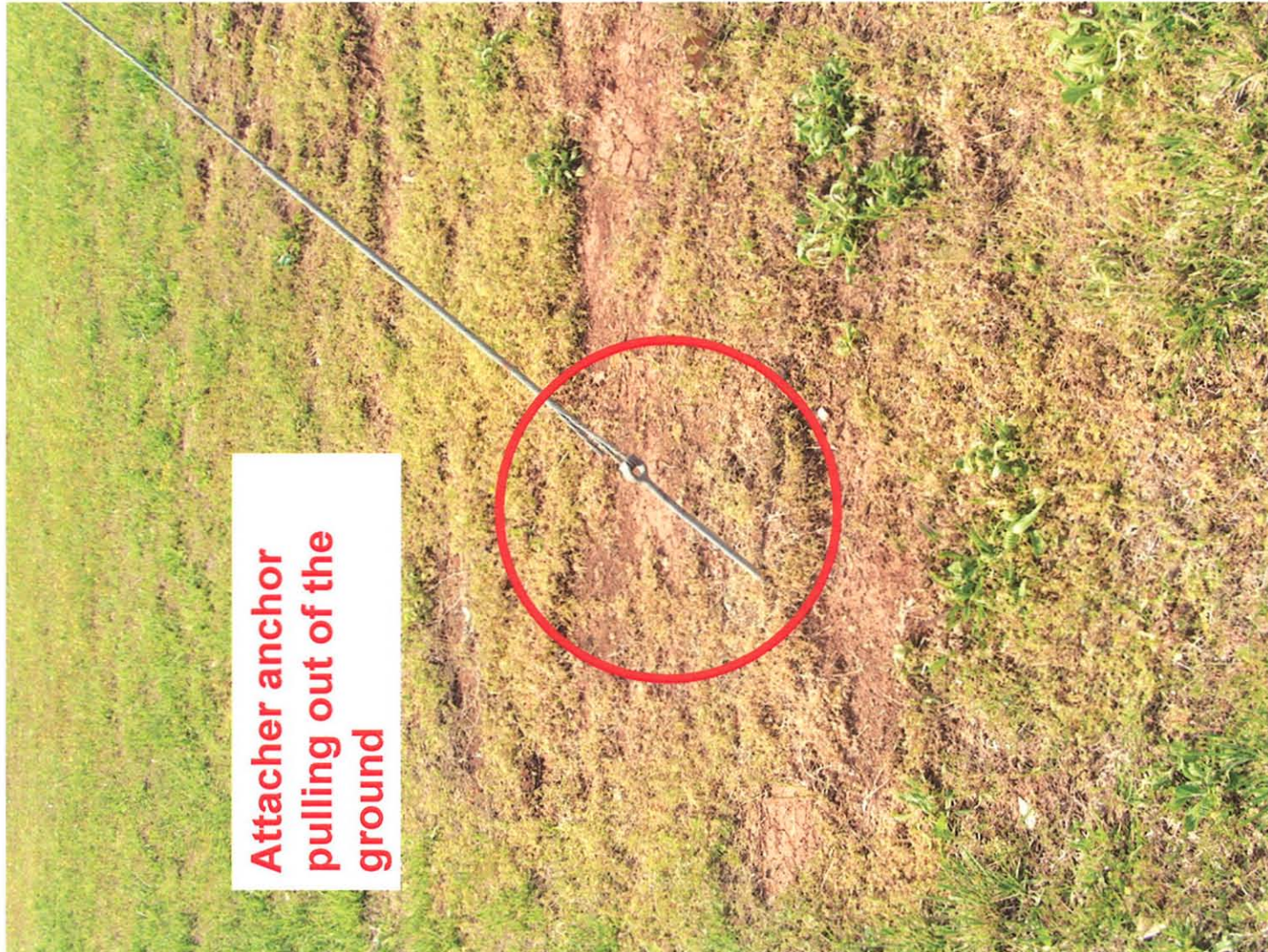




**Significant pole deflection
due to improper attacher
guying**



**Significant pole deflection
due to improper attacher
guying**



**Attacher anchor
pulling out of the
ground**